



This fall will be the time for all of Aruba to clean up

Aruba's resident population has nearly doubled in the last ten years, and so has its tourist population. This combination has not only produced more demands on services, but it is also producing refuse in record amounts. On a tiny island, this fact is going to make an enormous impact unless each individual and communities pull together and are vigilant in controlling the problem.

This is the message and concern of a number of groups that are cooperating to not only clean up, but also educate the population to keeping the island clean, as education and prevention are the keys to solving a growing problem. During a conference conducted at the Renaissance Resort Beach Tower on Tuesday morning, September 5, Astrid Muller, President of the AHATA Environmental Committee, Jan Van Ness, President of the Aruba Timeshare Association and Natalie Wolff of SERLIMAR informed the press of the "Esaki ta mi Barrio" clean-up initiative that will take place from September 16 through October 7 throughout twelve barrios, or community areas on the island.

"Esaki ta mi Barrio" ("This is MY neighborhood") has several purposes, first and foremost, to clean up Aruba of all the illegal dumping that has been taking place over the past, but in the last few years in particular. However, the message of this program is not only this clean up, but also the need for everyone to maintain, on a daily basis, the desire to keep Aruba clean. Each Saturday for the next four weeks, dumpsters will be placed in key areas where any and all can bring their garbage for collection for no charge. This is the time to get rid of all the garden waste, old washing machines and refrigerators, furniture, and what have you, that no one seems to have time to take all the way to the dump. What will *not* be accepted are car batteries, asbestos, tires, and wrecked cars. These items have their own special disposal requirements and SERLIMAR should be contacted directly as to their proper removal. Contributing time and materials toward this project are Daltra Antilles, N.V., Dijkhoff Cleaning, Ecotech, Fundacion Aruba Limpi, Mourik N.V. the Arikok National Park Rangers and the concerned government agencies, such as SERLIMAR.

The dumpsters will be available to receive refuse from 8:00 AM until 1:30 PM, when they will be taken away to the landfill. Other requirements for dumping is that individuals obey the instructions of those manning the dumpsters and that they make sure all waste materials are secured in a proper container so they do not blow out on the street during transport to the dump.

The schedule over the next four weeks is as follows:

Saturday, September 16:

Barrio: Lago Heights de Vuist;	Place: Centro di Bario Lago Heights.
Barrio: Washington	Place: CMB Noord Branch Parking Lot
Barrio: Madiki Kavel	Place: Centro di Bario Playa Pabao

Saturday, September 23

Barrio: Saveneta	Place: Piscina Olimpico Saveneta
Barrio: Turibana	Place: Panaderia Los Campos
Barrio: Macuarima	Place: Field next to the Police Headquarters

Saturday, September 30

Barrio: Pos Chiquito	Place: Parking lot of Pepe Ganga
Barrio: Sero Patrishi	Place: Field above the Sero Blanco road
Barrio: Zeewijk, San Nicolas	Place: Field next to the FCCA houses

Saturday, October 7

Barrio: San Nicolaas	Place: Field behind the Lucky Store
Barrio: Brasil/Mabon	Place: Centro di Bario Brisil
Barrio: Santa Cruz	Winston Field.

During the Monday press conference a number of other individuals that are concerned with neighborhood pride and issues, such as the United Forces Foundation of San Nicolas, and Marlon Pieters of the Community Police were present. The consensus of all is that the conquering of Aruba's litter problem, barrio by barrio, is not only the best way to clean up, but also to instill pride and concern in each

community and each individual Aruban resident for the beauty and health of their island. Dario Pena of San Nicolas spoke to the press of his own concerns and frustrations in attempting to maintain his neighborhood in San Nicolas, but even with the assistance of a neighbor, such a project cannot be accomplished by only a few. It is something of paramount concern for all, as illegal dumping brings vermin and creates a serious health hazard, threatening to all, but particularly children. It is short sighted and selfish to dump illegally, and many do since the inception of a charge at the landfill for a pick-up full of refuse, even though the charge is only ten Aruban florins. "This is little more than the cost of a pack of cigarettes," Mr. Pena reminded the press "or we could all drink a few less beers one weekend, and dump our garbage."

Various barrios will be having meetings over the next few weeks to mobilize their members into joining this island wide effort to clean up Aruba. For the removal of wrecked autos that have been standing for some time, contact SERLIMAR directly at 584-5080, or for new vehicles, call the police so they can check for ownership. This is the first massive clean-up effort of its kind, and organizers expressed that if successful; they hope to see it become an annual event. For Aruba's future, and for the health and well-being of every resident, it is their obligation to participate in this success, and the continued success of keeping Aruba clean.